

THE GATEWAY

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PITTY THA FOO It's April Fool's day today. Do you know what your friends are plotting? Check out some of the best pranks of all time in today's feature.

ZACRUIT

Gov't invites youth to share views on foreign policy

Youth compile report to represent their views on Canada's future policy in the global system

COSANNA PRESTON
News Writer

When I first heard the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) was holding a youth conference on Canadian foreign policy, I thought, "Where do I sign up?"

In January, Bill Graham, the minister of foreign affairs, announced he would facilitate dialogues with Canadians to find out, through forums and town hall meetings, what they wanted from their foreign policy. The National Forum for Youth was just one small piece of the puzzle.

Fascinated that the government wanted the opinion of Canadian youth, I applied and was accepted. Then I found out we were to meet in Ottawa only to create a report. It was immediately shadowed in skepticism, hesitant about the effectiveness of a youth report on foreign policy.

Regardless, Minister Graham was

still asking our opinion, and I was determined to give it to him.

After arriving in Ottawa, the Saturday morning bus ride to the venue, old City Hall, was surprisingly chatty. Eager youth introduced themselves to those still unknown. With 120 young people from all over the country, it was hard to keep the faces and names straight.

I sat by a young woman who had recently returned from India with Canada World Youth (CWY), a government-funded organization promoting cultural exchange. DFAIT had selected CWY to ensure at least some of the youth had international experience, and CWY in turn had selected her to attend the conference.

Once inside the building, we were separated into small working groups of about 13 people. I was immediately impressed with the cohesion of at least my own group. There were definitely different perspectives, as the entire political spectrum was covered within my small group.

"We wanted to bring an informed opinion from a broad perspective," noted Joan Broughton, coordinator for the United Nations Association of Canada (UNA-C), one group chosen by DFAIT to select participants.

PLEASE SEE FOREIGN POLICY • PAGE 2

Four-point grading starts next year

ANDREW TOUGAS
News Writer

Come next fall semester, a nine won't mean squat and a four will be worth more than you ever expected. Confused?

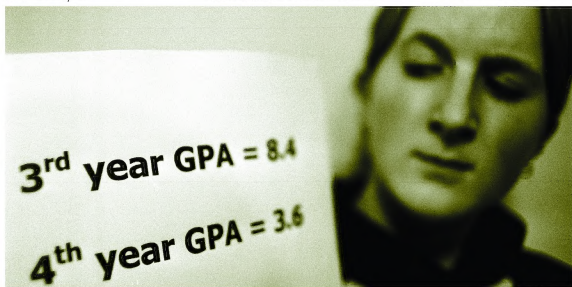
If you didn't already know, the U of A is replacing its unique nine-point grade system with the more common four-point system used at other universities. The decision was made three years ago by General Faculties Council, a legislative body representing all faculties on academic issues, and will be implemented next year.

The main reason is to eliminate any confusion when transferring U of A transcripts for grad schools or scholarships. Both SU Vice-President (Academic) Mat Brechtel and Acting Registrar Carole Byrne agree that though they don't think U of A students, the chance of that happening in the future is now less likely.

"When you go to another institution and you don't get credit for the courses you've already taken, a lot of times it comes down to them not understanding what the grade means. And it's nonsense because it's bureaucratic difficulties—it's red tape. This is one of the barriers that is going to be taken out of the way," said Brechtel.

The system will use letter grades with a four-point scale of numerical equivalents for calculating grade point averages (GPAs). For each course, students will get a letter grade of either A, B, C, D, or F, with pluses or minuses optionally added to the grade to help specify class performance. On transcripts, letter grades will be accompanied by a corresponding numeric GPA ranging from 4.0 (highest mark) to 0.0 (a failing grade).

PLEASE SEE FOUR-POINT • PAGE 2



KATE ROSSITER

WORKING NINE TO FOUR Students, watch out: grading next year will be done on a four-point system, not nine.



13 There's a strange mystique surrounding the Tom Cruise Missile. The intrepid sweethearts talk with singer and guitarist, Rob Wood, about the business of music.

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Outside

Tuesday Flurries? What a feeling: High 1, Low -2
Wednesday More flurries? I am music now: High -1, Low -7
Thursday Ben more flurries? Ben's believe! High 0, Low -8
Friday Blech! I am rhythm now: High 4, Low -6
Source: Environment Canada



From the archives

Gateway fashionista Jerome Ryckborst declared that spring '87 style is all about "sex: look but don't touch." For the girls, impenetrable old-timey underthings like corsets and bustles were reinvented as underwear, and Ryckborst also recommended nubile bustling corset mini-skirts. For the style-conscious campus male, movement was key as, said Ryckborst, "it gives the girls something to watch." Baggy-legged pants and full boxer-style or Bermuda shorts caused a sensation with billowing folds of fabric. And accessories were equally breezy: suggested must-haves included dangly bolo ties and free-flying fringe. Put together, spring '87's watch-my-belly flavour screamed, "Hey—watch me move!"

1987



15 In 250 years, Deathworld has never let us down. Until today—the last installment ever, aside from what Rudl'll still put up for the loyal fans at his fuckitfucks.com.

STREETERS

It's April Fool's Day,
when we celebrate
silliness and good jokes!

Have you ever pulled
a good prank, or had
a good prank pulled
on you?



Matt Taylor
Education II

I got pranked this Saturday I came home and there were about 150 Dixie cups on my floor full of water and shaving foam on all my CDs and on my dresser, and every picture on my wall was backwards, and all my posters were upside down. She [see below] did it, because we added [something] to her Mountain Dew a week ago, which causes diarrhea.



Charlene Winkler
Education III

We took my friend's car, and we put clues in different places, so he had to do a treasure hunt to find it. Our friend is a tow-truck driver, so we got him to tow it for us and put it at the end of the treasure hunt. It took him two hours to find it.



Cassandra Vickers
Arts I

I went to a Catholic school, so pretty much every week we would pull a prank on someone. In grade eight we had a worm colony, and we filled one of my friend's lockers with all the worms. They didn't know; it was really sad and kind of gross. He actually was sick for a few days, so by the time he got back to school they'd been in there for about three days, and we got in quite a bit of trouble. We went to try to explain where all the worms went to our science teacher.



Josh Schroeder
Science I

This year for April Fool's Day, [my girlfriend and I] are pulling one on our parents. We're sending them a card telling them they're going to be grandparents, and we sort of nonchalantly left it sitting on the table in front of my computer at home for them to find themselves. I've never pulled an April Fool's prank on my parents before, which means they probably won't expect it and makes it that much more fun.

Compiled and photographed by
Kristine Owram and Leah Collins



Lois Harder, U of A political science professor

Prof says Canadian social policy promotes neo-liberal ideals

CATLIN CRAWSHAW
News Writer

Third Way politics are shaping Canadian social policy and perpetuating neo-liberal ideals, asserted U of A political science professor Dr Lois Harder at a lecture last Thursday.

The lecture, "Is this the way in? Mechanisms and Rationales of Canada's Emerging Social Policy," was part of the department of political science's Reshaping Globalization lecture series, which has been running since September.

According to Harder, the "Third Way" approach to governing attempts to find a middle ground between social democracy and neo-liberalism, seeing strict adherence to either philosophy as problematic.

She argued that in centre-left regimes like Canada, Britain, and the US under Clinton, tenets of this strategy have been implemented in social policy, promoting an idea of social inclusion for those struggling to make ends meet. Rather than seeking to punish and exclude those on welfare, this system seeks to give a "hand up, rather than a hand-out."

But this style of social policy has had a significant impact on the tenets of democracy, Harder argued. Solidarity, equality and freedom have been compromised in favour of monetary ties.

"It now appears that one can best fulfill one's obligations to one's nation by most effectively pursuing the economic well-being of one's self, one's family, one's firm, business or organization," said Harder. "While we may find each other in the market... the primary bond that holds us in relation to one another, at least outside of our most intimate relationships, seems to be the ephemeral threads of monetary exchange."

Using the example of the National Child Benefit (NCB), a federal-provincial initiative that pays benefits to low-income families based on their overall income, Harder argued that social policies operate with a number of motivations and political objectives. One of these objectives is the promotion of neo-liberal morality, which Harder argued, sees work as independence and unemployment as dependence.

"The child benefit thus quietly rewards low-income Canadians for making the right choice, by using their freedom responsibly [in working for a living]," Harder said.

Harder also argued the NCB, like other Third Way social policies, wrongly assumes that participation in the labour market is sufficient to ameliorate social inequities.

Further, such policies as the NCB contribute to inequalities. Harder argued the NCB is gendered, despite its income-pooling system, in which the amount of the benefit paid corresponds with net family income, while simultaneously making mothers the recipients of the money, in most cases.

This indicates to Harder that the government is not genuinely concerned with women's interests, or with equality.

"The child benefit thus quietly rewards low-income Canadians for making the right choice, by using their freedom responsibly [in working for a living]."

DR LOIS HARDER, U OF A POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR, ON HOW CHILD BENEFIT PROGRAMS PROMOTE NEO-LIBERAL MORALITY

"If the rationale behind mothers generally being the recipients of the payment is that women's work in caring labour deserves some acknowledgement, why not make the acknowledgement more substantive: why not tie the benefit to mother's incomes?"

"The net income component of the policy design suggests an attempt to strike a balance among competing objectives: recognizing women's role in child-rearing must be weighed in relation to support for children in a context of limited fiscal resources. And because feminist equality-seeking has been so de-legitimized, it is not surprising that assumptions surrounding income-pooling are left uninterrogated."

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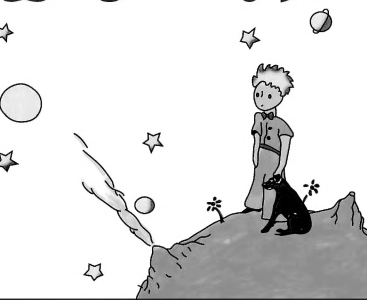
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Le Chien Noir



The Church of America

AMERICANS ARE, FOR THE MOST PART, friendly, kind and decent people. They do their best to earn an honest living, and, most of the time, happily ignore the world around them. But from time to time, their contempt for the rest of the world shines through, taking what would be a friendly self-confidence, and turning it into the cocky belligerence that makes America, and by extension Americans, both globally distrusted and disliked.

Individually, they mean well, but collectively, they're known for their arrogant, national superiority complex. This is founded, in part, on a belief that America is universally right, and that the rest of the world is wrong, which, if it were left at that, would remain mostly harmless.

Instead, the will to tolerate the rest of the world's presumed ignorance is replaced by a will to convert those backwards nations, ruled by despots and tyrants, to the one, true road to eternal salvation: the Church of the United States of America.

While the world tries to solve problems constructively—such as through the implementation of the Kyoto Accord—the United States has ignored the efforts of the international community, opting for a self-made righteous path, making a pilgrimage to a destination of its own invention.

While nobody in their right mind wants to be converted, many seem to have the unstoppable urge to convert others, making sweeping claims that divide all things into binary pairs of good and evil, saint and sinner, and heaven and hell. Those who aren't with the Church of America are accused of being against it, and anyone who doesn't toe the line is as good as damned, cast out like so many demons from the American House of God, tarred with the all-encompassing brush of "Un-American."

America appears to see itself not so much as a faithful follower of God, but as the divine manifestation of the almighty him/herself, dishing out judgment as they see fit. Instead of leading by moral example, America builds a morality for others to follow, which often doesn't mirror their own actions: weapons of mass destruction are condemned, as are the states that harbour them; international law, including United Nations resolutions, must be obeyed. In God We Trust becomes In Ourselves We Trust, which, truth be told, is a far more accurate portrayal of the current international political scene.

And yes, many countries will line up at the doorstep of the Church of America, only too eager to bow at the foot of the world's most powerful, most influential nation. Developing countries around the world that count on the whims of US foreign aid policy know better than to leave the flock, listening instead to the sermon half-heartedly, understanding the perils of biting the feeding hand. Ethiopia? Mongolia? Palau? The benefit to the US is little more than a few extra pew-warmers, boosting the size of the congregation to something more than a dozen.

The events of 11 September have once again pushed this rabid nationalism to the forefront, turning a once sympathetic global outpouring of heartfelt grief into a bitterly divided international community. National pride, in moderation, is generally a good thing. But, national pride to the point of forcing other nations to conform to your manner of thinking, acting in what can only be called a culturally supremacist fashion, is not winning points for the American cause, nor is it making America any safer.

As long as the United States continues to nation-build in their own image, sowing the seeds of a culture that lacks tolerance of moral and political diversity, the world will be a dangerous place, indeed.

IAN LICH
Production Editor

Near-end haiku

The wind blows harshly
As the spring dawns upon us
The paper draws nigh

DAVID ZEIBIN
Editor-in-Chief

LETTERS

The University should remain a place of healthy, informed debate

Members of the University of Alberta Campus Community.

The war in Iraq may bring a state of heightened anxiety to our campus community. I ask that we continue to participate in peaceful dialogue of the issues. The University of Alberta will maintain its role as a resource of ideas, information and expertise for the greater city of Edmonton, our province and our nation.

All members of our campus community have a responsibility to work to preserve the principle of free, open and civil dialogue on differing points of view.

I ask that each of you participate in discussions about this and other vital issues. Let our campus become where discussions and disagreement about the war in Iraq and other critical issues take place in a civil manner where respect for the rights of individuals to speak and be heard is accepted.

The diversity of our campus will be a catalyst to understanding if we remain open-minded.

RODERICK D FRASER, PhD
President, University of Alberta

Education is a right

Hi Zachary. Remember me? Sure you do. Being more rested, and full of new reflections, I thought I would continue our discussion.

Your last letter to the editor ("Post-secondary, by legal definition, is not a right," 6 February), although commendable and better supported, is in fact, still faulty.

For starters, what is the actual, not "legal," definition of a right? And which rights are actually guaranteed? Thirdly, how can you still compare reputable institutions like Grant MacEwan, Concordia and NAIT to "lowly salesmen"? Have you thought about why students attend these institutions? And really, what kind of university do you think I want? Certainly not the madhouse you have painted for me.

To begin, let's look at the actual definition of a "right." A right—the one we are discussing—is "defined as" a power, condition of existence or possession to which one is entitled by nature, legal or moral law, a grant or purchase." The bottom line is, a right is something "morally good or justified," and something we are entitled to. Judging by this definition, education is actually a right.

When you listed the rights you saw as being guaranteed—all of which come from UN's 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights—I started to wonder if the two of us lived in the same world. I will quote the author Nehemiah Robinson when I say, "The Declaration was intended to stimulate respect for human rights." Still "...many violations of human rights have continued to occur." And for rights to gain international importance, as those in the Declaration, people had to die, suffer, and in a faulty, paradoxical way, earn those rights a spot on the page.

I will leave you with Article 26 of the Declaration: "...higher education



shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit." We are moving further and further away from this. That scares me. Where do we stop the tuition increases?

This, Zachary, goes beyond our little discussion, and beyond the opinion pages of a university newspaper.

MAJIA OSMANIG
Arts II

Krause article on America hit the spot

I have to say, I didn't realize just how far some people have their heads shoved in certain places. I came across Chris Krause's article ("America: it's far too easy to ridicule you," 25 March) and was in complete awe. Finally, someone had the nerve to say the things that most people around the world think of Americans.

Now, this is not just the Canadian in me talking. I've travelled around the world more than my fair share and I can tell you exactly what other people of the world think about them. In fact, most of them tended to use Americans as the butt of their jokes. I applauded Krause then and I applaud him again.

I was also interested to see what sorts of replies would come from this article, so I checked out the website. I couldn't have prepared myself for what I saw. People who have no idea what a spell-check is, for people taking shots at Canada who can't even spell "Canada" properly, people thinking the US is God's gift to mankind, and people taking shots at the article who obviously read what they wanted to read and not what was printed. I almost fell out of my chair.

As much as people don't want to hear it, Krause's article hit the mark.

AMANDA GAUDET
Education IV

Bear Scat awesome!

Thanks for the recent article on Stephen Kirkham ("Bear Scat: one student's answer to Bear Tracks," 27 March). He should get some kind of award from the Registrar's Office, as his scheduling system is going to

save a lot of students a lot of time.

I wanted to work on my 2003-2004 timetable on Sunday night, but it was after midnight, a time unacceptable to Bear Tracks. However, I remembered the Gateway's profile of Kirkham's efforts and in about 20 minutes was able to create my conflict-free timetable for next semester.

Initiative like Kirkham's should be recognized and rewarded. Bravo Stephen!

DC WARD
Arts III

Cora Cunningham may be spreading food propaganda, too

While I have sympathy for Ms Cunningham's love of beef ("I pledge allegiance to a side of beef," 27 March) she assumes that her "facts" are not just as worthy of the propaganda label. Recent issues of *Scientific American* have shown that the necessity of meat and milk has been greatly exaggerated in the "food pyramid" charts—developed with aid, of course, of meat and milk industries.

As a side note, the Okinawans of Japan are even more renowned for their longevity, and their diet consists of little more than vegetables and a weekly meal of fish. The death rate among southern Indians has more to do with sanitation than diet.

Now who's spreading propaganda?

ANDREW MILLER
BEd

APIRG sorry about opt-out difficulties

We would like to clarify a few points in response to Tanisha Tet's concerns about her APIRG fee refund ("APIRG seems stingy with the dough," 27 March). Each term, students have up to two months to submit their opt-out forms. After the deadline (28 February this term), APIRG delivers the forms to the Students' Union.

The opt-out cheques are then

processed entirely by the Students' Union. APIRG receives our financial disbursement only after students have had the opportunity to opt out. We do not have any control over the timing or availability of the refund cheques.

That said, we are sorry to hear that Tanisha experienced such difficulty in trying to pick up her opt-out cheque. As a democratic organization, APIRG supports the right of students to opt out of the APIRG fee for financial or ideological reasons. As this is only our first year of operations, we plan to strengthen our problems so that the opt-out process is as easy as possible for students in future years.

We encourage any students who have concerns about APIRG or the opt-out process to bring them to our attention.

ROSE YEWCHUK
Coordinator, APIRG
CHERRIE KLASSEN
Administrator, APIRG

Smith implicates self in opt-out difficulties

I must respond to Tanisha Tet's letter regarding the availability of money for the APIRG opt-out. While it is true that the opt-out money was a little bit late—due exclusively to my own incompetence, and in no way attributable to APIRG—it is available as of 25 March in SUB 2-900.

Sorry for the delay.

STEVE SMITH
VP (Operations & Finance)
Students' Union

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to managing@gatewayulberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise defamatory in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.

A night at the strippers betrays an ugly, empty sexuality



ANTHONY
EASTON

After 22 years of feminism, conventional sexual ethics, and other tools to make me into a boy who respects women, I saw my first live pussy last week.

Actually, in the period of three hours, I went from seeing my first vulva to my fourth, to never wanting to see one ever again. My friend invited me to a strip club, and always one for an adventure, I went along.

Before I entered the establishment, I thought no one was exploited when women took their clothes off, that everything was slightly naughty but not necessarily immoral, that it was not something I would like to do, but something that I did not object to if others did. I thought it was a viable way for women to gain eco-

nomic power.

British author Camille Paglia called exotic dancers "pagan goddesses," and I believed her. I made fun of the Jesus freaks who talked about a pornography addiction and felt sorry for people who thought it was exploitation, thinking they had cobwebs up their cunts.

Now that I've seen the other side, I've changed my mind. The women take their clothes off, and the men pay for the privilege. That I expected. What I didn't expect was how creepy and ugly the whole enterprise is. Ugly in an aesthetic sense: tacky neon on the stage; chairs bought cheap from the same places as chain restaurants; stained carpets; overpriced, badly mixed drinks and an odour of stale beer and lasting cigarette smoke. All this was evident before the dancers started.

Now, I wasn't expecting much in the way of dancing, and sure, some of them had acrobatics, but mostly the routines consisted of a woman crawling on all fours to each of the men in succession, then offering her gen-

itals to have loonies thrown at it. I use the word "women" loosely; they had shaved every hair they could, their breasts were as fake as their plastic and polyester costumes. The women were performing their gender like drag queens, but without the self-awareness.

So, instead of realizing how absurd and tawdry the enterprise was, dozens of men were hooting and hollering like five-year-olds at Disneyland. The women were exploited for their post-human flesh carriages but the men were exploited by their refusal to realize the authentic. No one had any sense of irony, and no one had any critical distance, though I'm sure that's hard to achieve with an aching hard-on and no release.

The end of the night made me wonder about the lack of authenticity even more. There is an old cliché, "Every boy thinks he can go home with the waitress," and it should be amended to, "Every boy thinks the stripper loves him after a lap dance." Hearing the conversation in the cab

on the way home, lubricated by liquor and testosterone, proved that point. My friend got a lap dance, the dancer called him sweetie, and he was convinced that they could run away together.

Now that I've seen the other side, I've changed my mind. The women take their clothes off, and the men pay for the privilege. That I expected. What I didn't expect was how creepy and ugly the whole enterprise is.

The whole evening, topped off by this delusion, has moved me away from my pro-porn position. I have written porn for money. I have read theory about porn, I have consumed

porn in many varieties from the age of twelve onward. I have tastes in porn like I have tastes in music or magazines or art. I didn't think it was harmful, but after seeing women exposed and the resultant delusion afterwards, porn is the same thing, just more dehumanizing. People talk about the money as liberating, but although it's seemingly the only job in the world where women make more than men, is it still healthy if it requires them to be degraded, even if it's consensual? Is this not a continuation of the exploitation of a human's body, and the work they do with that body?

This doesn't mean I'm advocating burning penthouses and forcing everyone to dress like the Amish. I think sexuality is such a massive part of humanity's life, and should be depicted in all its forms. But those depictions need to be authentic or true. Porn is physical, joyless, boring and, worst of all, banal. The artifice of it strips us of our central humanity, and makes people into fuckbots. So did that Monday night, and this scares me.

The real terrorists come from a land down under



ADAM
HOUSTON

Most of us don't take much notice of Australia. We imagine a place where people wear big hats and listen to AC/DC, sort of like Hinton, only with wallabies. But our collective ambivalence as Canadians may be our downfall. We Canucks have been concentrating so much on not being Americanized that we've left the back door—the outback door, if you will—wide open.

Look around campus. It seems like you can hardly spill your coffee all over someone without receiving a boisterous "No worries!" in response. Let's face it, no normal person would be that tolerant. And if you really think about it, every time something bad happens to us, Australia is always conveniently tucked away on the other side of the world. Every time, that's a little too convenient if you ask me. We've been complacent about the Aussie menace ever since finding out their hordes of Russell Mulcahys and INXNs in the 1980s. This time will be worse; the snuggle-tooth scowls

are no doubt in cahoots with New Zealand. Don't even get me started on those shifty Kiwis. Suffice it to say that New Zealand is where Australia used to ship all of their convicts.

Consider the facts: Men at Work have been in town at least three times in the past five years. Outback Steakhouses are proliferating like Booster Juice outlets. Savage Garden back-catalogue sales are at an all time high.

We Canucks have been concentrating so much on not being Americanized that we've left the back door—the outback door, if you will—wide open.

Those wily downunderites have refurbished and repolished Kylie Minogue after a ten-year absence, and lord knows what sort of upgrades they have planned for Olivia Newton-John, once they decided the hostilities should get physical, physical.

Now that the long dormant Crocodile Dundee has finally made it to Los Angeles, how long can it

be, presuming he plans to proceed in a strictly alphabetical fashion, until Medicine Hat is crushed under his leathery fist?

Indeed, they've been infiltrating our hideous Hollywood ranks for years. Mel we could handle, as long as other imports were restricted to the likes of Yahoo Serious and Sam Neill—who nobody could possibly find attractive—we were OK. But now Russell Crowe? Heath Ledger? Hugh Jackman? Eric Bana? Guy Pearce? Soon they'll be wreaking with most attractive shellas, condemning the rest of us to a life of drudgery and toil in their eucalyptus mines. And there's more. Notice how Nicole Kidman has suddenly become a "good" actress? Plus what's with this *Mad Max* 4 business? They told us we didn't need another hero, yet here he is. Something's going on, and I'm willing to bet that it involves a dastardly scheme to remake our gracious Queen in the visage of Dame Edna Everage.

But what do they want from us? It's cold here, there aren't any dangerous snakes to poke, and Rolf Harris appearances are few and far between. Still, who can fathom the cunning *Australapithecus* mind? No doubt it won't be quick and painless; they'll have their cunning little tendrils penetrating every orifice of the Canadian identity before they take the final step, whatever that may be. In place of

the noble beaver, we'll be saluting the result of some hideous bio-genetic experiment, some freak of bio-nature like the platypus or the Bush-Tucker Man. No longer will we be free to garnish our pancakes with delicious maple syrup; instead, we'll be distilling gin-tonic into a jar and calling it Vegemite.

We'll all have to go to Midnight Oil concerts and drive Subaru. And instead of standing proud and tall, belting out our true patriot love to

our home and native land, we'll be warbling about swagmen who camp by billabongs, without knowing what any of those words mean.

So next time you want to throw another shrimp on the barbie to welcome our Australian "guests," stop and think for a minute. Do you want to live in a world where every day is a Kangaroo Jack-esque escape?

Is that what you want for your children? I didn't want to think so.

Dave Alexander's TOP TEN

Little known facts about Donald Rumsfeld

- 10 Once had the military drop a bunker buster in back yard so he didn't have to dig hole for his pool.
- 9 Is an official member of the Axis of Blyrcleem.
- 8 Favourite pastime is putting on a cowboy hat and forcing Colin Powell to give him horse rides.
- 7 If you removed the parts of him that are contempt and condescension he'd be three inches tall.
- 6 Does a hilarious impersonation of a ventriloquist dummy, even when he's not working.
- 5 Looks cute as a button in corduroy overalls.
- 4 Played Official Sweetchuck in the Police Academy movies.
- 3 Is in that small minority of people who prefer DJ Jazzy Jeff over the Fresh Prince.
- 2 His face makes a hideous creaking sound when he smiles, which is why his face rarely makes a hideous creaking sound.
- 1 His most important unofficial duty is to prance into the Oval Office wearing a jester's outfit while holding a mirror full of blow whenever Dubya demands a "rumi n' coke."

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Some greeting cards stink of stereotype



SARBREENA
DELHON

The Flash imagery, flanked with soothing music and mellifluous text, featured an animated woman I imagine was intended to look earthy, ethnic and a variety of other words used to describe the African woman stereotype. I gathered that her dead-looking hair and dark skin, along with the steady beat in the background were meagre attempts at authenticity.

Oh Hallmark. How I love to give you specifically-titled cards to inappropriate recipients. Why, I even received mismatched greetings, such as the card intended for a "Special Boy on Easter." I enjoyed on my birthday oh-so-many years ago, a thoughtful gesture from two very good friends indeed.

It seems the way I, and people like me, deal with the stringent and rigid obligations surrounding celebratory greetings is to innocently mix up the messages. It's not like you just can't send the card or just acknowledge the date, sans paper or electronic cards. That's nonsense, non-conformist and non-committal.

While perusing the Hallmark website, eagerly waiting for a clever birthday e-card to pop out at me, I came across a selection entitled "Mahogany." If it was a clever play on the McCartney/Wonder classic "Ebony & Ivory," I do not know, but I can assume the card was part of a series attempting to reach out to the "ethnic" market.

Upon viewing the card I was left feeling rather confused.

Did "Mahogany" people mean that only "Mahogany" people could send it? View it? Understand it?

Upon viewing the card I was left feeling rather confused. Did "Mahogany" people mean that only "Mahogany" people could send it? View it? Understand it? If so, what exactly were the criteria for this category? My skin colour could pass the test but—oh darn, there goes that cultural background getting in the way of my sending e-cards again! Who knew there were such implied restrictions?

I checked out a few other categories

such as "Romance" and "Friendship" for "Mahogany" greetings and recognized the same basic pattern. At this point I had progressed beyond confused and had attained annoyance. For some reason I could not make light of these ridiculous greetings by, say, sending them to my Polish friend. I just could not get past how much they bothered me.

They didn't include racial slurs of any kind, but as I sat in my basement, barely visible under a pile of notebooks and texts, there was my monitor smugly, subtly performing an act of racial profiling disguised as something with "groove" and "funk."

Perhaps what frustrates me most is that we've not come far enough to abolish racial stereotypes. We are not beyond the need to categorize, and our progress of human acceptance is currently at the "disgust" level. I can hear the Hallmark executives now, talking in their slick greeting card rhymes:

Just disguise the racism as a happy card that's on the move

Where a woman with dreadlocks talks about her groove!

Subtle, patronizing racism is still racism. I know I'd be right pissed if someone sent me an e-card featuring a man with a turban driving a cab. Heaven forbid if Hallmark's next marketing venture extends to "Curry."

Anti-war protestors are a nasty bunch



COLIN
BELL

who have turned ugly and attacked police, Demonstrators in Montreal and Halifax have been arrested for attacking police, and the BBC has reported on violent demonstrations in Amman, Hamburg, Khartoum, Cairo and Senegal that saw the police using water cannons to stop angry mobs. For people who hate war, they sure are quick to throw the first stone and then dwell on about how much they love life.

Don't get me wrong.
I have friends who
are protesting
and I can respect
what they believe in,
but that doesn't
excuse the behaviour
of the anti-war lobby.

Like most of you, I've been keeping an eye on the news to stay informed about the war in Iraq, and the images are bright, rapid, and certainly nasty to watch.

We are the first generation with the dubious privilege of watching a war in real time, something relatively unknown to anybody else before, unless they were direct participants. We have also been able to watch the response to the invasion all around the world, and this has fascinated me. I really enjoyed watching the antics of peace activists the world over as they behave like a bunch of five-year-olds who've been told they aren't going to get any dessert.

Don't get me wrong. I have friends who are protesting, and I can respect what they believe in, but that doesn't excuse the behaviour of the anti-war lobby. They're coming across like a pack of camera-hungry hooligans determined to force their opinions on the world through any means necessary.

Let's take a look at the phenomenon of anti-war protestors.

First, they claim they love peace and hate violence, but the news services are carrying stories about protestors

the police who are trying to keep the rest of us safe. Did anybody else see the footage this week of "peaceful" protestors in Vancouver angrily charging a police line and behaving like a pack of football hooligans?

So let's recap. Protestors are willing to use force to get their way, they are intolerant of other ideas and beliefs, and they like to hold rallies with the media watching so they can advance their political agenda.

And Canadian activists obviously find more value protesting events far from home that attract greater media attention than our silly little domestic problems. After all, why should they be expected to protest the homeless problem in Canada when there are so many homeless people in Iraq and Afghanistan?

We all know protesting the conditions in Palestinian refugee camps is much more fulfilling than drawing attention to the appalling conditions that the First Nations people of Canada endure. I guess I'm just one of those people who believes that before you tell the rest of the world how to behave, you should clean up your own little corner of it.

If these protestors believe so strongly in improving the state of the world, why do they have to go halfway around the world to do it? There are many problems in Canada that have to be addressed first, but I suppose it's much more thrilling to protest a war in front of a camera than it is to actually help people in your own country.

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April Fool's

April Fool's Day began in the sixteenth century when Pope Gregory XII declared the Gregorian calendar was to replace the old Julian calendar, which moved New Year's Day from 1 April to 1 January. Many people abroad didn't believe the change was accurate or didn't hear of the news and so continued to celebrate the New Year on 1 April while others played tricks on those refusing the new calendar dates. They would send them on "fool's errands" or try to trick them into believing false stories were true. The tradition has carried on over the years and the tricks became more elaborate and convincing than ever. Praying on the naivety of the world, thousands of outlandish pranks have been pulled off for the sake of a good joke. Today, the *Gateway* looks back at some of the best hoaxes of all time and reminds you, no matter where you are on 1 April if you aren't careful someone might be making a fool of you.

Paul Martin Cattle Breed Cows, P

The **Canadian dollar** took a beating after a w reported that Finance Minister Paul Martin government to breed "prize **Charolais cattle**" and Martin wanted to "retire to a quieter life outside exit would rock the Canadian Government. "T with the Canadian dollar to stabilize it on wor

Despite the fact the story included links to pictu Fool's Day" across the screen, thousands were dollar sunk to a one-month low losing several the next day when it was declared a hoax and

The Taco Liberty Bell ~ 1996



On 1 April 1996, **Taco Bell** bought a full-page ad in the New York Times and four other major daily newspapers announcing to the dismay of Historians and to the pleasure of refried beans lovers that they had purchased the **American Liberty Bell**. The story was picked up by NBC's *Nightly News*, *The Today Show*, and CBS's *This Morning* and subsequently climbed to the front page of *USA Today*. A prank press release stating the Taco Bell corporation was trying to "do their part to reduce the country's debt" and go "one step further by purchasing one of the country's greatest historic treasures" made its way across national news wires. They even included a fact sheet pointing out the Liberty bell weighed the same as **11 093 tacos** (2080 lbs) and would take **5376 packets of hot sauce** to fill up. Still, few clued into the fact the entire affair was fictional.

In the end, 650 print outlets and 400 TV broadcasts had covered the story, exposing an estimated 70 million Americans to the joke. **The National Historic Park** in Philadelphia, where the Liberty Bell is displayed, was swamped with thousands of phone calls from hysteric victims of the prank. Taco Bell kept the gag going until noon the next day when they finally announced the ads were a practical joke. By that time, however, the story had gone so far, their sales increased by **\$500 000** 1 April and by **\$600 000** 2 April.

White House press secretary Mike McCurry responded to the outlandish event stating that the US government also planned to "sell the Lincoln Memorial to Ford Motor Company and rename it the Lincoln Mercury Memorial."

Left-Handed Whopper ~ 1998

A press release from Burger King baffled the United States when it announced the introduction of a left-handed Whopper targeted at the 13 per cent of the American population who are left-handed.

"America's most-preferred premium hamburger will feature the trademark build of lettuce, tomato, onions, pickles, mayonnaise, ketchup and 4-ounce flame-broiled hamburger patty, but the newly designed sandwich has been re-engineered to fit more comfortably in the left hand, thereby reducing condiment 'spills' for left-handed hamburger lovers." They went on to explain their re-engineering would simply mean rotating all the condiments on the broiled burgers 180 degrees, "thereby redistributing the weight of the sandwich" so it would not be so sloppy for the left-handed.

Burger King took out a full-page ad in *USA Today* and the scandal resulted in thousands of customers going into restaurants to request the new sandwich. In a follow-up release the next day, Burger King announced that, along with those interested in the lefty meal were "many others [who] requested their own 'right-handed' version."



Text by **Heather Adler**

Pranks to Ducks ~ 2002

Well-known Canadian political website, *bourque.org*, was planning to resign from his position in the handsome **Fawn Runner ducks**. The site reported the limelight" and that it was expected his sudden the Bank of Canada has said it is ready to intervene and markets if necessary," wrote the pranksters.

res of ducks and a page that scrolled "Happy April swindled into believing it. As a result, the Canadian points on the day and failing to re-gain ground until the minister's office officially denied the rumour.



Spaghetti Harvest ~ 1957

Panorama, a reputable **British news show** announced on April Fool's that a bumper spaghetti harvest in southern **Switzerland** was being enjoyed due to an unusually mild winter in the region. The broadcast went on to describe how "the virtual disappearance of the **spaghetti weevil**, the tiny creature whose depredations have caused much concern in the past," had also aided in making this the best year for pasta ever.

At the time, spaghetti was considered to be quite an **exotic** dish and was not widely eaten in Britain, so when images of trees growing pasta and rural families collecting it into baskets aired, the nation was duped. The announcers described how the Swiss platoons were smaller than those of tremendous scale in Italy and had perfected the uniform length of the pasta after "many years of patient endeavour by past breeders who succeeded in producing the perfect spaghetti." They went on to outline the picking process and how **Swiss families** laid out each individual strand to dry in the warm **Alpine air**.

In the fallout of the prank, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) was flooded with callers inquiring how to grow their own spaghetti tree. The BBC would reply by telling viewers to "place a sprig of spaghetti in a tin of tomato sauce and hope for the best." It was one of the first hoaxes to use the **television** to pull a gag on a nation.

Sidd Finch ~ 1985

"He's a pitcher, part **yogi** and part **recluse**. Impressively liberated from our opulent life-style, Sidd's deciding about yoga—and his future in baseball," wrote journalist George Plimpton in the 1985 *Sports Illustrated*. The first letters of that introduction spelled out Happy April Fool's Day but the article made fools of a tremendously sized audience.

The feature-length story profiled a 28-year-old **rookie** pitcher who had been raised in an orphanage, adopted by an archaeologist (who was later killed in the Dhaulagiri mountains of Nepal after a tragic plane accident), and attended school at Harvard. An interview with his old Harvard roommate explained one day Finch just packed up and left, taking "the little rug, the horn, the staff" and even a "long kind of **shepherd's crook**." He was said to leave only an unsolvable Zen koan puzzle about a goose living in a bottle. Finch allegedly moved to Tibet to learn "the art of the pitch" with fantastic training under the "great poet-saint Lama Milaraspa" who trained him in **siddhi**, the yogic mastery of mind-body. His fantastical story ended with the New York Mets attempting to draft him for his pitch that was reported to fly at over **168mph** with perfect accuracy.

Finch was depicted in photographs as a "pretzel gone loony," wearing a hiking boot on his left foot and leaving his other foot bare. Over **2000 letters** were received by *Sports Illustrated* from readers, and fans. Another baseball team in Maine, which the story named as **Finch's old AAA farm team**, even attempted to invite Finch to their annual banquet and were sent a letter reading, "the challenge is reaching the Eighthfold Path of right belief or the ninth inning with the proper relief. May you have peace of mind." On 8 April the publication announced Finch would not be pursuing a career with the Mets and it wasn't until 15 April that they came out admitting the entire affair was a **prank**.

"The first of April
is the day we
remember what
we are the
other 364 days
of the year."

— MARK TWAIN

Honourable mentions

Other headlines that made waves and made us giggle:

2000 A news release announces the 15th Annual New York City April Fool's Day Parade which was said to feature a \$10 billion "Where's Mars?" and a "Beat 'em, Bust 'em, Book 'em" float created by the New York Police Department. New York has never had an April Fool's Day parade.

1999 The *Phoenix New Times* reveals a new charity for the destitute named "The Arm the Homeless Coalition" that would seek out ways to bring guns and ammunition to the less fortunate.

1998 Alabama changes the value of π to the "Biblical value" of 3.0.

1994 Microsoft bids on purchase of the Roman Catholic Church in exchange for Microsoft common stock.

1993 The *Madison Capital-Times* announces the Wisconsin State Capitol collapses after a series of mysterious explosions caused by gas trapped in the Senate chambers after a lengthy debate.

1993 New York announces implementation of 911 chat line.

1992 Richard Nixon runs for president again under the slogan, "I didn't do anything wrong, and I won't do it again."

1980 The BBC reports Big Ben, one of London's most famous landmarks, was going to begin displaying a digital readout of the time to bring the centre a more modern look.

1978 Australian millionaire Dick Smith reportedly tows iceberg from Antarctica to Sydney intending to carve it into cubes and sell the pieces to tourists for ten cents each.

1940 The Franklin Institute announces the world would end on 1 April at 3pm. People believe it.

Check out a few April Fools websites for more hilarity:

www.museumofhoaxes.com/top100.html
www.april-fools.us/
www.ibiblio.org/dbarberi/fools/classic/

SPORTS

sports@gaw.ca • Tuesday, 1 April 2003

Sports shorts

A quick and global glimpse at the world of sport

2002-2003 U of A varsity results

Gold
Pandas Rugby
Pandas Hockey
Pandas Volleyball



FILE PHOTO: SHAWN BENBOW

Silver
Pandas Soccer
Bears Volleyball

Bronze
Bears Cross-Country
Bears Hockey
Pandas Volleyball

Canada West Conference Titles

Pandas Rugby
Pandas Hockey
Bears Hockey
Pandas Volleyball

SARS

SARS, the deadly respiratory disease currently sweeping the globe, has interrupted its first sporting event. The International Ice Hockey Federation's women's world hockey tournament, which was to be held in Beijing, was cancelled. A ten-day quarantine has been called in Ontario for people who have visited hospitals where the disease has been spread.

SARS AND SABRES

Two Buffalo Sabres have had their seasons cut short after visiting with an employee of a hospital in Ontario where there was a SARS outbreak. Defenders Rhett Warner and Brian Campbell have voluntarily quarantined themselves for the ten-day period suggested for all persons exposed to the mysterious disease. The pair were visited by a relative of Campbell's at the apartment they share. No signs of the disease have been exhibited by either player.

CHERRY PICKIN'

Don Cherry, now infamous for his pro-American remarks on a 22 March "Coach's Corner" segment on CBC's Hockey Night in Canada, refuses to back down saying "I was always proud of Canada, but this here is an embarrassment." Calling the Canadian media "totally left-wing," Cherry claims that ordinary Canadians praised his remarks.

BUSH-LEAGUE BASEBALL

George Bush was asked to christen the Cincinnati Reds' new ballpark, Great American Ballpark, Monday by tossing out the ceremonial first pitch. Bush declined, though his father, former US President George Bush, filled in.

BLUE JAYS POOP ON NEW YORK

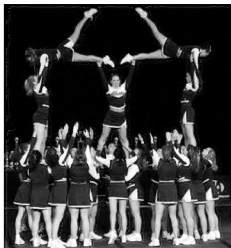
To advertise for their season opener against the Yankees, the Jays have plastered a photo of a Yanks hat splashed with bird droppings all over Toronto. Sure helps our Canada-US relations, don't it?

THOSE PESKY TEXANS

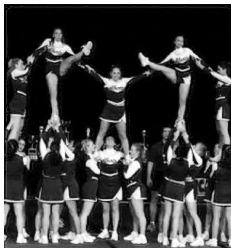
Sunday, the Texas Longhorns beat Michigan State 85-76 in the NCAA's South Regional final for their first berth to the Final Four since 1947. TJ Ford led the Longhorns with 19 points on the day.

SLAMMIN' BRITS

England's Slammin' Ireland 42-6 for their first Grand Slam in eight years. Some are calling this English rugby slay the best the nation has ever assembled.



The U of A cheer team pay their costs, like trips to nationals (2002 shown above), largely from their own pockets.



CHRIS WONG

Cheerleading on the rise

Working as hard as any U of A varsity team, the cheer squad is looking to raise its profile

JOEL CHURY
Sports Writer

Cheerleaders and mascots can be found at many sporting events around the world, but cheerleading as a sport itself is widely neglected.

Slowly fading is the stereotype of cheerleaders as simply eye candy for sports fans. Cheerleading is a highly demanding sport that requires intense athleticism and control.

The University of Alberta cheer team, once much more prolific than now, has been making a quiet comeback onto the CIS scene. Operating without the support of the U of A athletics department, the team has had to raise its own funds for competitions and necessary travel costs.

"We did some fundraising this year; however, it wasn't as successful as we had hoped. The competitions were paid for mostly out of our pockets," said Kelly Janssen, team member and Harry Atinlay Provincial Championship team alumna. "When you come to the University age, selling chocolates is not exactly a good way to raise money."

Despite their lack of financial support, the team was able to finish fourth at the "Best of

the West" competition in Vancouver, and also competed for the first time in Toronto at the Canadian University Nationals, finishing twelfth. The Nationals are privately sponsored and invite universities to send their club teams to compete. Alberta currently sports a 23-member squad that is entirely female. The team holds practices twice a week on top of workouts.

"We see cheerleading as a sport," said Janssen. "It is important to be a well-rounded athlete. Because it's an all-girls team, strength is key to any kind of successful stunting." The team has three-times-weekly cardiovascular and muscular endurance sessions to keep on top of their game.

In addition to their practices, workout program and competitions, the team supports the university's sports teams. Without any obligation to the athletics department, the cheer team was a mainstay for the Bears football team at Foote Field home games, as well as for the men's basketball team. "We are primarily a competition team. However, we do feel that it is important to support university athletics," said Janssen.

The addition of their presence to home games adds to the atmosphere of the venue. The team

members are also willing ambassadors for the University, and they perform at various community functions, including the Klondike Days parade, and the Chancellor's Cup charity golf tournament.

"The team is always looking for new members. Our team has a combination of ex-dancers, and ex-gymnasts who have been competitive at one time but are in University now," said Janssen.

Not all members come from the same background though. More stress is placed on athleticism than experience. "We're particularly interested in tumblers and male athletes, but anyone with any sort of athletics experience is more than welcome to come and find out more about us," added Janssen.

Led by coaches Kim Fissel and Michelle Keylor, the team hopes to increase its member base for next year, and to maybe teach some more advanced skills along the way. The scariest looking moves are the pyramids, but Janssen insists that they are the not the most difficult stunts. "Individual stunts are the hardest," she said. "You have to get the basics down before you can connect them. Once you have the individual stunts, dominating them is no problem."

Women in sports challenge stereotypes

MARSHA OSTROVSKY
The Fulcrum

OTTAWA (CUP) — Hayley Wickenheiser, Wanee Miller-Horn and Venus Williams are star athletes with one important thing in common—they are challenging the traditional view of females being inferior to their male counterparts in sports.

"Women excelling in sport challenges the most basic gender stereotype in our society... The stereotype that they're passive, weak, cooperative and not aggressive—that they're not strong and they can't take pain," said Katherine Trevenen, professor of women's studies at the University of Ottawa.

On 20-21 February, over 120 female high school students attended the "Future on Women in Sports" symposium at the University of Ottawa, held to discuss the future of women in sports.

"Through the two days, girls were given case studies for issues that women might face in sports," said Loes Dewit, a fourth-year education student who helped organize the symposium as part of her co-op placement.

An impressive roster of female coaches, professional athletes and sports officials attended the symposium. Discussion ranged from the disproportionate amount of media coverage Anna Kournikova receives, to Hayley Wickenheiser playing on a men's hockey team, to how the Ladies Professional Golf Association hosted a workshop for female golfers, advising them on what clothes to wear and how much makeup to

put on.

Eating disorders was another hot topic of conversation.

"Specifically, the other thing we have to think about is that girls and women have a higher percentage of eating disorders and problems with food, and one of the things that sport encourages is that being strong and healthy are good things," said Trevenen.

The stereotype of women's role in sport is not only perpetuated by men, but also by women. In today's society, photographers chase athletes such as Kournikova simply for being attractive. This leaves women walking a fine line between promoting their sport based on athletic merit and being marketed to the masses for their sex appeal.

Horn-Miller, co-captain of the Canadian women's water polo team, raised eyebrows when she posed nude on the cover of Time magazine before heading to the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

"I wanted to challenge the idea that if a woman is naked, it's necessarily linked to sexuality... Women are portrayed differently in the media—a picture or text will emphasize something feminine about them," said Karin Henri, a University of Ottawa student in the School of Human Kinetics and Women's Studies who studied the controversial photos as part of her Master's degree program.

According to Henri, Horn-Miller, a Mohawk native, posed nude not out of a desire to stir controversy, but rather to serve as a role model for her community that is seriously under-repre-

ented in all competitive sports.

"My analysis of the picture was that there was nothing sexual," said Henri. "It shows strength and determination and focus instead of a seductive kind of pose or a submissive one."

As female athletes posing nude generates much heated debate, it shows that society still has far to go in accepting and celebrating women as athletes.

"First, those stereotypes are marketed to us in pop culture and advertising... Capitalist society is invested in that stereotype," said Trevenen. "Second, there's a power structure reflected in those stereotypes that reinforces and perpetuates them."

By participating in traditionally testosterone-dominated sports like hockey, however, women are pushing the envelope, forcing society to re-evaluate what it means to be a woman. Wickenheiser, the hockey player who led Team Canada women's hockey to a gold medal victory at the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City, is one of those changing the rules.

"The women wear all this padding—they're very tough. Focusing media attention on those women is a great thing," said Trevenen. "It busts the idea that girls are too dainty to play hockey."

Increasing participation of girls and women in sport, along with a growing number of positive role models, is slowly eroding gender stereotypes, to the benefit of both women and men.

"For every girl who wants to play hockey, there's a boy who wants to do ballet," said Trevenen.

SFU football player refuses to sign document, removed from team

SCOTT WRIGHT
The Peak

BURNABY, BC (CUP) — Chris Giacomantonio has been kicked off Simon Fraser University's (SFU) Clan football team because he is, as he calls it, "a conscientious dissenter of an improper contract and [the athletic department] didn't know how to deal with it."

He has not been removed from the squad due to any improper behaviour, academic ineligibility, or even poor play, but has been asked to leave the team for his refusal to sign an agreement between athletes and the sports department at SFU.

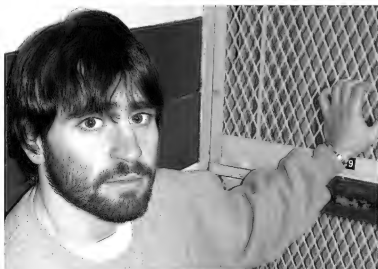
In the spring of 2002, four dialogue sessions were held with student-athletes, coaches, and athletics department staff. Accounts of these sessions vary between athletes and administration. He claimed that the only change to the "Clan standard" was that an appeal procedure was added.

Giacomantonio has a different take. Will Weidmann, SFU's Athletics Director, said the dialogue sessions may have been lacking a proper conclusion. The minutes from the meetings were released, but a final report never was.

There is some disagreement as to whether a change was included in the 2002 version of the "Clan standard" from the 2001 version. In a document that Weidmann explains as being an internal working discussion document rather than a policy document of the 2001 "Clan standard," it states: "A student-athlete's eligibility will be terminated once they have completed twelve terms of attendance."

The 2002 version states: "A student-athlete's eligibility will be terminated once they have completed ten terms of attendance."

While Weidmann argues that a change was never made and that the document only represents a "what if" discussion, Giacomantonio and other players were given the impression by departmental



CHRIS GIACOMANTONIO, formerly of the Clan football team, contends that athletes are not subject to their universities only when they're performing.

staff that this document was indicative of the department's policy. He believes the athletes who signed the agreement agreed to the change from twelve semesters in which an athlete can compete for five years of eligibility, to ten semesters for the five years, without having the proper documentation given to them. This change means that if an athlete is hurt, or chooses to red-shirt, they still lose a year of athletic eligibility at SFU. Were they to transfer to another Canadian university, they would regain the year.

"We said we don't want to sign this," said Giacomantonio. "There's no good reason for us to sign this. We're not management problems. We're not eligibility problems. We want to be treated like people. We don't want to talk about this. We don't want to be handled a contract. If it's going to be a contract, we want to negotiate it, we want to understand where it's coming from."

Weidmann refused to comment, saying, "This is a personal issue." He did say, however, "All Clan student-athletes, if they wish to have the privilege of being part of the Clan, are required to sign a Clan student-athlete

agreement. Just as our university has certain obligations students have to meet to be a member of the university, so too do our SFU Clan student-athletes."

One week after the season, Giacomantonio received an e-mail saying that he had not yet made his appeal and if he didn't sign by that Monday he would be removed from the football team.

He did not sign and has since been removed from the team.

"All I ever wanted to do was talk about the issue, but they closed that door when they wouldn't meet with me," he said.

Giacomantonio's predicament has brought attention to other issues within the department.

"The larger issue of university athletics, and what we have to start realizing, is that university athletics aren't at all about the university athletes," said Giacomantonio. "The university athletes are unimportant so long as they're there. So long as they continue to perform."

"They're good when they perform, when they're not performing they're unimportant."

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SPECIAL GENERAL STAFF MEETING

This meeting is rather important, as the Gateway Student Journalism Society will be making slight alterations to its bylaws:

1. We would like to increase the number of people on the Board of Directors from seven to nine. Quorum would be increased from five to six. The restrictions on who these people can be is yet to be decided.
2. Currently, there is no formal procedure for removing delinquent board members. We would like to add a clause that would add the status of a director's directorship to the agenda if he/she were absent for three consecutive meetings, or four in total.
3. The Board would like to meet "at least once every six weeks" rather than the current "at least once per month."
4. Currently, the Students-at-Large who sit on the Editor-in-Chief hiring committee must be the Sal Directors. We would like this to change to "any Student-at-Large fitting the description for a Student-at-Large Director."
5. Hiring committees are currently expected to meet prior to all interviews to "shortlist" candidates. There is no quorum specification. We would like quorum to be 50 per cent of the respective hiring committee.

This meeting will also elect Gateway representatives for the 2003-2004 Board of Directors. Currently, this board requires one volunteer representative and one Gateway editor representative.

On behalf the Gateway Student Journalism Society,

David Zeibin
Chair of the Board of Directors

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Irish Shakespeare staged at Studio

The Plough and the Stars

Directed by Michael Mordock
Starring Adrienne Dalman, Cheryl Olson, Scott Olynek, Martin Hopper, Erik Hildebrand, and Marcia Owen
Studio Theatre
Runs until Saturday, 5 April

ADAM ROZENHART
Entertainment Editor

Imagine how different English literature would be if Shakespeare were an Irish nationalist.

He might have written *The Plough and the Stars*, perhaps. However, the task fell to Sean O'Casey, an Irish Protestant who figured prominently in the Irish Labour Party and the Irish Citizen Army in the early 1900s. O'Casey became disillusioned with the middle-class leadership of the nationalist movement in Ireland, and then turned his attention to writing plays. Considered one of the premiere playwrights of the twentieth century, O'Casey staged *The Plough and the Stars* on the heels of his first two theatrical successes.

The Plough and the Stars follows the lives of the residents of a tenement house in Dublin. On the eve of rebellion, the working-class men and women of the house grapple with personal, social and political issues in the midst of a Dublin about to explode with violence.

For Studio Theatre's purposes, the Irish tenement house comprises a creative set that appears almost entirely modular while slides of Dublin fill in the background and piles of discarded belongings line the streets of the city. A transforming wooden backdrop is cleverly rearranged to create a bar, the outside of a building, and the inside of the tenement house.

Within this re-creation, U of A BFA (Acting) students make up the Irish working class, and do



AT TOAST TO A FREE IRELAND Fluther Good (Martin Hopper), Covey (Scott Olynek), and Jack Clitheroe (David MacInnes) raise their glasses. PHILIP HEAD

a good job of it, despite a few dodgy attempts at impersonating the Irish brogue. Though the accents don't come naturally, the talent for acting certainly seems to; long, wordy rants and soliloquies are well executed and humorous.

The first half of the play, in fact, is most engaging, entertaining, and funny. It opens with Hutter Good (Martin Hopper) listening to the gossip of Maggie Gogan (Cheryl Olson). The two are soon joined by four other residents: the short-fused Peter Hynn (Erik Hildebrand), young Marxist Covey (Scott Olynek), Nora Clitheroe (Amber McGrath), and her husband

Jack Clitheroe (David MacInnes). The audience is treated to a glimpse into the simple lives of these Irish folk. Soon, however, there is word of rebellion, and these simple, working-class Irish mobilize. Some go to fight in the Irish Citizen Army, some expound on the virtues of an empowered proletariat, and some decry an Ireland under the control of England. The beginning of the Easter Uprising marks the end of the first act.

In the second half, the action is a bit more intense. Unfortunately, this also means the dialogue is more preachy; where before we were

treated to interesting speeches on Irish life, now the characters discuss what this uprising will mean for an Irish republic, and how immoral the war is. Though the messages presented by the play are apt and absolutely timely, they are a grim reminder that art imitates life. However, some characters stay fresh and interesting throughout the play, and although the play is sometimes preachy and melodramatic, the actors' performances are nonetheless stimulating.

Melodrama, comedy, tragedy—perhaps there was a little bit of Shakespeare in Sean O'Casey. There certainly is in *The Plough and the Stars*.

Hollywood saves the world and the Internet

Cheesy lines and ridiculous plot twists permeate *The Core*

The Core

Directed By Jon Amiel
Starring Aaron Eckhart, Stanley Tucci, Hilary Swank, Delroy Lindo, and DJ Qualls
Now playing

JAMES ELFORD
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Confronted by a world filled with war, pestilence, famine and a depressing economic outlook, it's almost a relief to watch a typical Hollywood apocalypse scenario that is thankfully too unrealistic to believe. Almost... but not quite.

If being released at a time when many people are busy watching the military orgy on TV weren't bad enough, *The Core* also has to overcome the fact that its plot and dialogue compete to be the most laughably silly ever.

The film is a string of contrivances held together by actors who are, for the most part, good enough that they should be ashamed for accepting their roles. But for some reason, the film is just bad enough to almost be worth watching.

The basic premise: the dashing, young, brilliant geophysicist Dr Josh Keyes (Aaron Eckhart) discovers that the earth's core has stopped rotating for some mysterious reason, leading to some wild and wacky disaster-movie-type problems. Of course, if they don't get it started again, the world will end, as Keyes and the quasi-antagonist Dr Conrad Zimsly (Stanley Tucci) illustrate to the US government with the very scientific demonstration of burning an apple with a hairspray

flame-thrower.

Not surprisingly, there just happens to be a mad scientist (Delroy Lindo) who is working on an experimental machine that can dig into the earth. Thus Keyes and company (including Hilary Swank as the requisite love interest) are required to set off a number of nuclear explosions in the Earth's core, as they're thrust into a wacky underground adventure of the kind not seen, thankfully, since *Journey to the Centre of the Earth*.

Qualls' character serves very little purpose other than nerdy comic relief. Oh, and he's supposed to control all the information on the Internet to prevent the public from finding out about the earth's core stopping, and the attempt to restart it.

It is ultimately revealed that Zimsly made a weapon (codenamed Project Destiny) for the US government that caused earth's core to stop rotating, and the threat of having this shot while they are underground is just one of many problems that the group must face. Of course, having this weapon also gives Tucci the opportunity to cheese up the script with the line, "Gentlemen, it looks like destiny has caught up with us."

Still, the most ridiculous lines in the film have to come from the most unnecessary character, the supposed uber-hacker Rat (DJ Qualls). It



HARD CORE HACKER DJ Qualls shows Aaron Eckhart how to download the Internet to his desktop. SUPPLIED: BOB MACYMAN

went something like this:
Rat: "How many languages do you speak?"
Zimsly: "Five."

Rat: "I speak one, 10101001..."
This little conversation proceeds to include a sentence I never want to hear again: "You want me to hack the planet?"

Qualls' character serves very little purpose other than nerdy comic relief. Oh, and he's supposed to control all the information on the Internet to prevent the public from finding out about the earth's core stopping, and the attempt to restart it. Of course, this assumes that the massive, unnatural disasters going unexplained and ignored by governments would result in much calmer citizens.

Still, as the action moves along quickly, the

actors and directors take *The Core* just seriously enough that you can't help but sit back, laugh and tolerate the movie's utter ridiculousness.

The disaster movie genre has always been a silly one, and *The Core* follows suit. Disasters only hit major cities and monuments, and all things scientific can be broken down to a simple metaphor like, "Even a small wrench can stall a big engine." Luckily it also has the special effects (although the Project Destiny scenes look as though the film ran out of money) and forced tension which are the more marketable trademarks of the genre.

The *Core* was enjoyable in the way watching a guy fall down a ski hill is enjoyable, but given the world's current state, there is something to be said for escapism.



WOULD YOU LIKE SOME COFFEE WITH THAT SUGAR? The Tom Cruise Missile has some late night coffee at Keegan's. PATRICK FINLAY

Zeroing-in on the Tom Cruise Missile

SWETCHEHYANNE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

I've never seen the Tom Cruise Missile live. Frankly, I am unacquainted with their music.

However, I am by no means unfamiliar with the mystique of the band. I hear their name whispered in the dark corners of cafes. Post-show, I hear folks talking about the all-encompassing ride (both auditory and visual) that is a performance by the Tom Cruise Missile. Apparently, they are better than the band you originally went to see.

Tim Rechner plays the drums and is also a talented visual artist. Jason Stronick is a multi-instrumentalist, employing keyboards, synthesizer, and trumpet; he is also a father and full-time student. Rob Wood sings and plays guitar; Wood is also the webmaster of a small online community of likeminded music nerds.

I recently corresponded with Wood over the strange tap-tap of keyboards and Internet connections:

Gateway: What do you think of the incessant need, of music critics in particular, to genre-fy every single bit of music out there? For example, describing the music of the Tom Cruise Missile as "post-rock."

Wood: I certainly wouldn't call our music post-rock. We're far too half-assed. As for the classification of music in the context of an arbitrary sound-byte, that's something else. While I disagree with it in principle, I find it to be a much greater cop-out when people pretend they can't hear the difference between a Mogwai record and say, a Lionel Richie record, simply because they're into proving to everyone how "unconcerned with labels" they are.

In the case of post-rock, the term was coined by a very clued-up individual (music critic Simon Reynolds) with a remarkable amount of knowledge

and a great deal at stake in observing the current and future state of underground music. I'll take the opinion of someone who in 1993 and 1994 was at ground zero so to speak, taking in the scene in its infancy, over the opinion of some guy at the bar who informs me that music is "like, soooo totally undefinable" and that genres are "invented by marketing teams to make MuchMusic's scheduling easier."

Gateway: I hear rumours that you stop mid-way through songs to tune your guitar. Some might view this as pretentious, others endearing. Are you a perfectionist? Does the sound at a particular moment triumph over the continuity of a song as a whole?

Wood: That's a rumour. I often take the time to tune up between songs, though. The truth is that guitars are sometimes hard to keep in tune, especially if they feel they're being played poorly.

Gateway: Are your visuals intended to communicate a specific interpretation of the music?

Wood: I never actually get to see the visuals before we go on stage. In fact, there's hardly any communication at all between the band and our video artist(s) prior to the show. These are artists with agendas all their own, and we just enjoy creating the opportunity to provide some sort of backdrop for each others' work. Anyone inferring that there is a message or a meaning to any of it would be misled in more ways than one.

Gateway: When did music become real for you? What was the first artist that made you lose it?

Wood: If you mean real in the way that dirty laundry, earwax, and junk mail are real, I would have to say that it never has and hopefully never will.

My first mind-blowing musical experience was an Earth Wind and Fire LP my dad used to throw on when I was about six. For some reason, everything about it scared the living piss out of me—the cover art, the falsetto voice, the horn section. So terrifying, yet so funky. I wish I could be six again.

The Tom Cruise Missile play on 19 April as part of Snifflin Jay's now famous Happy Hour series of live broadcasts for CJSR. Rechner is currently showcasing his work in a show called loose eyes at Listen Records.



NIGHT VISION The Missiles boast a visual-intensive live show. PATRICK FINLAY

Whenever I hear that kind of rhetoric, I get pissed off in a real hurry. Most people are perfectly aware of music's inherent potential as a commodity; anyone above the age of eight can tell that aside from being art, there is a business end to it. People are free to make their own decisions on how they feel about that contrast, and therefore, are free to accept any labels they want. I view categorization not necessarily as a symptom of narrow-mindedness, but as a symptom of orderliness.

If MuchMusic tells you that Lithuanian hip hop is the next big thing and you're interested in believing that, go right ahead. Likewise, if you feel that any music involving an electric guitar is rock music, go ahead and put your Buddy Holly and Slayer albums right next to each other on the shelf. It's all fair game.

FREE STUFF

Vin Diesel's back as a vengeful DEA agent in the new crime drama *A Man Apart*. The Gateway wants to send you to see the **preview screening on Thursday, 3 April at 7pm at SilverCity**. All you have to do is **answer** this one simple question:

What mainstream Hollywood filmmaker first noticed Diesel and cast him in a 1998 war film?

This one's **easy**, but you'll have to be quick with the answer, as there are **only five** double-guest passes to be doled out. E-mail your answers to entertainment@gateway.ualberta.ca. Good luck!

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Basic is basically good

Basic

Directed by John McTiernan
Starring John Travolta,
Samuel L. Jackson, and Giovanni Ribisi
Now playing

PETER MACKENZIE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

John Travolta stars alongside Samuel L. Jackson for the first time since *Pulp Fiction* in *Basic*, a film based on the corruption of the US army in South America.

On an apparently routine training mission, an officer (Jackson) and some of his men are killed, and a DEA agent and investigator (Travolta), who also served under this officer, is called in to help a female rookie investigator find out what happened from two of the survivors. But what at first seems like a simple murder turns out to be something totally different.

From the beginning of the film until literally the last 15 seconds, the plot twists and turns seemingly out of control, but constantly keeps you on your toes, cleverly pulling you through to a totally unexpected conclusion.

I thought from the moment I heard about this film that I was going to like it. And while I'd have liked to see Travolta and Jackson acting with each other a lot more (they only appear together in one short scene), both were true to form. Travolta is given adulatory lines befitting his persona, especially when flirting with the younger investigator, and Jackson was completely convincing as an overly harsh Ranger officer.

The film slips effortlessly between



ONE BAD MOTHER... Samuel L. Jackson collars a young recruit in *Basic*.

comedy, thriller and action genres, sometimes all in the same scene. Yet, each element works in concert with the others, without sacrificing believability. One second you have a serious interrogation scene, then Travolta blows the whole mood, before heading straight back into the intensity of the preceding moment.

This is one of those films that plays the line between being full of clever twists and just being a plot based on lots of twists rather than the story

itself, which is OK for some—you might enjoy the sheer unpredictability. But I felt rather unsatisfied by the apparent lack of a clear flow or solid, underlying storyline.

Travolta's natural charisma carries the film so well that I found it impossible not to enjoy it all, though. So if you're a fan of these two actors, if you like complex stories of war and corruption, or just like films that keep you guessing, basically, this film is for you.

SITE UNSEEN



www.ratempoo.com

ADAM HOUSTON
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Here it is, the shittiest site on the web I don't mean to dump all over it, but whoever decided to create a Hot-or-Not-style page dedicated to people's defecatory accomplishments was full of crap (he isn't any more though, as all too many of these photos illustrate).

So, if you feel like attending to some focal matters, choose your favourite from a veritable kaleidoscope of colours and textures. Some of the participants get a little carried away in their interpretations; while nobody spotted the visage of the Virgin Mary in their toilet bowl (insert holy shit joke here), there's all manner of likenesses, from everyday items to Elvis Presley, circa 1976.

Next up: the FOX television adaptation in which deciding the next American Idol will come down, not to some British dude pretending to differentiate between equally awful renditions of AM radio staples, but to the far more objective measure of bodyweight percentage consisting of undigested corn.

CULTURA OBSCURA



Michael Jackson
Baby Drop Sculpture

ADAM ROZENHART
Entertainment Editor

As if the media hadn't flogged this particular moment to death, the people of Pop Sculptures bring a wonderful piece by which to remember the day Michael Jackson dangled his baby over a balcony.

The untitled work includes a cartoon-realistic, though decidedly less freakish-looking, Jackson dangling his blarneyed child over a balcony. For the creative people out there, Pop Sculptures also sells an unpainted version of the statue so that you can apply your own interpretation of the event.

Far be it for me to comment on why this is the most stupid sort of merchandising ever. But I'll comment nonetheless: this is dumb. In fact, it's probably the reason the term "dumb" was ever coined. What's next? A sculpture of Princess Di's car accident?

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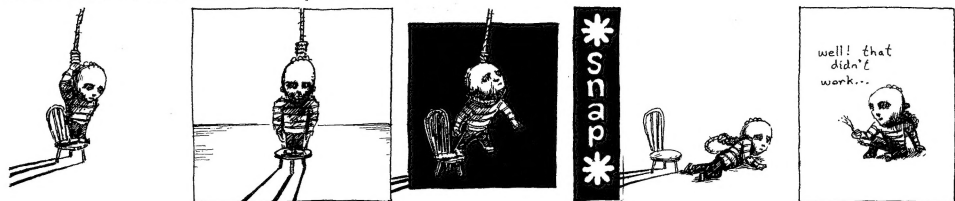
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Board member. Election will be held at 5pm on April 18th. All members of the public are welcome to attend. Nominations packages available from: APIRG, 9111 HUB Mall, 436-0181 or apirg@ualberta.ca

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THREE LINES FOR A TOONIE

Ray B, wow, you're foxy SQM

"That was not his knee" 30-30-biz

Unlabeled, it was born dead. OSL. My girl's initials are ETH, where T equals "Terror". That's what she is, killing millions with her glare. Meaning: the above TUT is not by her—if she wanted to express such a sentiment, too, I think she'd just tell me, or kill me with her razor-sharp voice and equestrian trainer-esque inflection (sometimes that's how she gives approval). But if "Ray B" is me, thanks. And I'm a presumptuous ass if "Ray B" is not me. — REB

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HAPPY BOB KNOWS

Campus events and more...

The TESL students in the Department of Educational Psychology (in conjunction with the Graduate Students' Association) presents "Learning English at School: Identity, Social Relations, and Classroom Practice" on Wednesday, 2 April, 2003 from 4-5:30pm in Education South 165. Presentation by Dr. Kathleen Tooley, Professor and Director of Graduate Programs, Faculty of Education, Simon Fraser University. Dr. Tooley will discuss a longitudinal study about a cohort of young English language learners over three years. In particular, she will describe the social, material and intellectual "economies" in one of their classrooms and how these are implicated in the children's language and more general learning. It will be shown that the variable distribution of resources in classrooms,

such as instructional practices, has profound effects on learning.

The Alberta Public Interest Research Group (APIRG) presents a Special General Meeting on Wednesday, 9 April, 2003 in the SUB Alumni Room. APIRG is holding a Special General Meeting to elect a ninth board member and review this year's activities. The meeting is open to everyone, but only students who have not opted out of the APIRG fee for ideological reasons may vote. For more information, please call 436-0181.

HBK is a service provided for Registered Student Groups and University Departments only. HBK is only printed in the Tuesday editions of the Gateway each week. HBK does not publish events that are weekly on-going, or not open to the public. Incomplete forms will not be submitted. Submissions will print for one issue only. Entry deadline is 3:00pm Fridays (submit your entry on the Friday before the issue you wish it to appear in). Submit to the Gateway Offices (3-04, third floor SUB) or fax to 492-6665.

THE GATEWAY Scholarship for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Excellence

The Gateway Student Journalism Society is giving away five (\$200) scholarships rewarding continuing students for their creativity, writing ability and participation in extracurricular activities on campus. If this sounds like something you're interested in, please go to www.gateway.ualberta.ca/scholarship for more information, or pick up an application form from the Gateway offices on the third floor of SUB. Applicants must submit a 500-word essay on independent campus media. Winning applicants' submissions will be published in the Gateway in the following academic year.



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Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) - Executive Director Job Description

Reporting to the Council of Alberta University Students membership in general and the Chair of the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) in particular, the Campaign Coordinator for the CAUS will coordinate and develop campaigns based on CAUS policy and approved by the member including but not limited to an external media campaign and a MLA lobby tour. The coordinator will also provide some research, communications, administrative to the CAUS.

Qualifications:

- Undergraduate university degree in a field such as Political Science, Sociology, Canadian Studies, History, Communications or related fields of study.
- Administrative experience and communication skills, including ability to write press releases and background documents
- Computer skills: Microsoft Word, Excel, and Access, with website development skills a strong asset.
- Strong knowledge of the provincial and federal context of post-secondary education, with an ability to analyze policy trends, technical papers, and budget information
- Highly organized and able to juggle several different tasks at once
- Demonstrated ability to organize and develop campaigns
- Ability to work independently

Responsibilities:

- Develop and coordinate campaigns based on CAUS policy.
- Propose and implement at least two province-wide campaigns on issues identified by the CAUS membership as being pressing, timely, and of concern to Alberta's university students.
- Day-to-day administration of the CAUS
- Assist the researchers at member institutions in gathering all pertinent information on the province of Alberta's post-secondary policies and funding, as well as inter-provincial research in order to design well-researched campaigns
- Maintain communication with the provincial government, including coordinating an annual MLA lobby tour, and meetings with the provincial Minister of Learning, the Minister of Human Resources, and the Premier of Alberta
- Maintain a CAUS media presence by responding to all provincial issues of relevance to Alberta university students
- Maintain both a proactive and reactive media presence by responding to government policy directions and by implementing CAUS campaigns

Relationships:

- The CAUS Executive Director will take direction and report to the CAUS membership. The Campaign Executive Director will be responsible for designing and implementing campaigns and other strategic initiatives for the CAUS membership based on CAUS policy.
- The Campaign Executive Director will work closely with the researchers at the member schools in the gathering of information, policy analysis, and strategic policy advice to better aid in government relations and in designing appropriate campaign materials.
- The Campaign Executive Director will work closely with the communications officers at the member schools in order to coordinate responses to government post-secondary policies and in order to effectively implement campaigns

Remuneration: \$29,000/year plus benefits

Deadline for application: April 22, 2003

Please include a writing sample with your application.

Please apply to:

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